



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ACFC/MR(2026)2

Meeting report

89th meeting

Approved by the Advisory Committee on 26 October 2026

Opening of the meeting

The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC) held its 89th meeting from 18 to 22 May 2026 in Strasbourg. Petra Roter, President of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee.

Adoption of the Agenda and Order of Business

The Agenda and Order of Business, as reproduced in Appendix I, were adopted.

Approval of the report of the 88th meeting of the Advisory Committee

Having examined the draft of its 88th meeting report, the Advisory Committee approved the report as reproduced in document ACFC/MR(2026)1, without amendments.

Report from the Bureau

The President reported on the Bureau meeting held on 13 May 2026, during which the organisation of the 89th plenary was discussed.

Update by the Secretariat

Elise Cornu, Executive Secretary, informed the Advisory Committee about recent developments within the Committee of Ministers, including the adoption of resolutions on Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary and Portugal, as well as the current status of ongoing resolution negotiations. She also informed the Advisory Committee that the Sixth Opinion on Italy would be published on 29 May 2026. Furthermore, she reported that the 135th Session of the Committee of Ministers, held on 15 May 2026 in Chişinău (Republic of Moldova), included a decision under the New Democratic Pact for Europe, focusing on inclusive societies and non-discrimination ([CM/Del/Dec\(2026\)135/3c](#)). This decision emphasises the importance of protecting the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as a key aspect of human rights protection, democratic participation, and inclusive societies.

Approval of draft opinions

In application of Rule 37 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the following draft opinions:

- Sixth Opinion on Slovenia, on 19 May 2026;
- Fifth Opinion on Poland, on 22 May 2026.

Adoption of final opinions

In application of Rule 37 of Resolution CM/Res(2019)49, the Advisory Committee unanimously adopted following opinions:

- Sixth Opinion on the Slovak Republic (unanimously), on 20 May 2026;
- Sixth Opinion on Croatia (with one abstention), on 20 May 2026;
- Combined 5th and 6th Opinions on Ukraine (unanimously), on 21 May 2026.

Adoption of the 15th Activity Report covering the period from 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2026

The Advisory Committee unanimously adopted the 15th Activity Report, which includes a section on trends and challenges, in relation to hostility towards national minorities and persons affiliating with them; continuing exclusion of Roma and Travellers as well as budgetary cuts and recurring lack of reliable data. The Advisory Committee was informed that the 15th Activity Report would be presented to the Committee of Ministers on 23 September 2026 by the Acting President and published on the same day.

■ Factsheet on Democracy and Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Advisory Committee asked the Secretariat to circulate the Factsheet on Democracy and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities among its members in view of its finalisation.

■ Composition of working groups/planning of visits

The Secretariat informed the Advisory Committee about the work plan for the second semester of 2026 and 2027. The Advisory Committee discussed the composition of working groups concerning Armenia, Austria, and Norway.

■ Next meetings

The Advisory Committee confirmed 26-30 October 2026 as the date of the next plenary meeting, and 22-26 February 2027 for the following meeting, subject to confirmation by the next composition of the Advisory Committee.

The President closed the plenary meeting by thanking and expressing gratitude to the experts who will be departing from the Advisory Committee on 31 May 2026 for their co-operation and achievements despite the challenging circumstances, as well as to the Secretariat. The Advisory Committee also expressed gratitude to the President for her leadership and unwavering dedication over the past four years.

■ Appendix I – Agenda

Monday, 18 May

- 9.30 – 10.00 Opening of the meeting
 Adoption of the Agenda & Order of Business
 Approval of the report of the 88th meeting of the Advisory Committee
 Report from the Bureau
 Recent developments: update by the Secretariat
- 10.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Poland
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Fifth Opinion on Poland

Tuesday, 19 May

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Sixth Opinion on Slovenia
- 14.00 – 18.00 Monitoring: First reading of the draft Sixth Opinion on Slovenia

Wednesday, 20 May

- 9.00 – 12.30 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Fifth Opinion on Poland
- 14.00 – 16.00 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Slovak Republic
- Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Sixth Opinion on Croatia
- 16.00 – 18.00 Reading of the substantive section of the 15th Biennial Activity Report

Thursday 21 May

- 9.00– 12.30 Monitoring: Reading and final adoption of the draft Combined Fifth and Sixth Opinion on Ukraine
- 14.30 – 18.00 Monitoring: Second reading and possible approval of the draft Sixth Opinion on Slovenia

Friday, 22 May

- 9.00 – 12.30 Adoption of the 15th Biennial Activity Report
- 14.00 – 17.00 Factsheet on Democracy and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
 Composition of working groups
 Next meetings
 Any other business
 List of decisions adopted during the meeting

Appendix II – List of participants

▪ Ordinary Members

Pedro AGUILERA CORTÉS (Spain)
 Evis ALIMEHMETI (Albania)
 Ingeborg BIRNIE-HAVENGA (Netherlands)
 Besarion BOKHASHVILI (Georgia)
 Laura-Maria CRĂCIUNEAN-TATU (Romania)
 Vladimir DJURIĆ (Serbia)
 Yuliia FYSUN (Ukraine)
 Tomáš HRUSTIČ (Slovak Republic)
 Šarūnas LIEKIS (Lithuania)
 Tove H. MALLOY (Denmark)
 Egly PANTELAKIS (Cyprus)
 Klaus POIER (Austria)
 Detlev REIN (Germany)
 Petra ROTER (Slovenia)
 Roksana RUDEVIČA (Latvia) *excused*
 Elisabeth SÁNDOR-SZALAY (Hungary)
 David SMITH (United Kingdom)
 Judith WYTTEBACH (Switzerland)

▪ Additional member

Aleksandra Oszmiańska-Pagett (Poland)

▪ Secretariat of the Council of Europe

Elise CORNU, Executive Secretary and Head of the National Minorities and Minority Languages Division
 Sara CAMUSSI, Project Officer
 Michaël GUET, Administrator, Policy Adviser
 Jörg HORN, Administrator, Policy Adviser
 Maxime HUOT, Administrator
 Tankut SOYKAN, Administrator
 Snežana LALIČIĆ, Administrative Assistant